

WAIVER OF VISA FEES FOR NONIMMIGRANTS

Exchange of notes at Panama August 14, October 27, and November 5, 1948

Entered into force November 5, 1948; operative January 1, 1949

*Terminated June 1, 1956, by agreement of March 27 and May 22 and 25, 1956*¹

62 Stat. 3848; Treaties and Other
International Acts Series 1943

The American Ambassador to the Minister of Foreign Affairs

No. 38

PANAMÁ, R.P., August 14, 1948

EXCELLENCY:

I have the honor to refer to the Embassy's Note No. 458 of September 2, 1947, the Ministry's Note D.P. 2592 of November 12, 1947, to previous correspondence and to various informal conversations with the Second Secretary of the Ministry, all pertaining to my government's proposal that temporary visitors' visas be issued gratis to citizens of the United States and the Republic of Panamá on a reciprocal basis.

I am pleased to inform Your Excellency that the Government of the United States will on or after the 1st day of November, 1948, grant to Panamanian nationals who qualify as temporary visitors for business or pleasure purposes under the provisions of section 3 (2) of the Immigration Act of 1924,² as amended, gratis non-immigrant passport visas valid for any number of applications for admission into the United States and its possessions during a period of twenty-four (24) months from date of issuance, provided the passports of the bearers remain valid for that period of time, if, on and after the same date, the Government of Panamá will accord a similar courtesy to American citizens in a like category entering Panamá. All other non-immigrant passport visas granted to qualified Panamanian nationals will be without fee and valid for any number of applications for admission into the United States during a period of twelve (12) months, provided the passports of the bearers remain valid for that period of time, if the Government of Panamá will accord a similar courtesy to American citizens in a like category entering Panamá.

¹ 7 UST 905; TIAS 3573.

² 43 Stat. 154.

The period of validity of a visa relates only to the period within which it may be used in connection with an application for admission at a port of entry into the United States and its possessions, and not to the length of stay in the United States which may be permitted the bearer after he is admitted. The period of time an alien may be permitted to stay in the United States is determined by the immigration authorities at the time the alien is admitted.

The fee for an immigration visa to permit an alien to apply for admission into the United States and its possessions with the privilege of residing permanently therein is \$10.00. The amount of this fee is prescribed by the Immigration Act of 1924, and it may not be changed on the basis of a reciprocal arrangement.

Please accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

MONNETT B. DAVIS

His Excellency

Ing. ERNESTO JAEN GUARDIA,
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Panamá, R.P.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs to the American Ambassador

[TRANSLATION]

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
D. P. #2010

PANAMÁ, *October 27, 1948*

MR. AMBASSADOR:

I have the honor to refer to Your Excellency's courteous note No. 38, dated August 14, 1948, regarding the proposal of Your Excellency's Government relative to the issuance of temporary visitors' visas, free of charge, to citizens of the Republic of Panamá and of the United States, on a reciprocal basis.

I am pleased to inform Your Excellency that my Government is willing to accept the proposal formulated with a view to facilitating and encouraging recreational and business trips to our respective countries.

Therefore, as of January 1, 1949, Panamanian Consulates abroad will issue to United States citizens who qualify as tourists or transients, in accordance with our legislation in force, free tourist or transit visas for recreational or business purposes, as the case may be, valid for any number of applications for entry in the Republic of Panamá during a period of twenty-four (24) months from the date of issuance, provided that the passports are valid for that period and that as of the said date the Government of the United States extends the same courtesy to Panamanian citizens of the same category who travel to the United States.

The period of validity of a visa refers only to the period within which it may be used in relation to the application for entry into a port of entry of the national territory and not to the extension of sojourn which may be granted in the Republic to the bearer after he is admitted into the country. The period during which an alien may stay in the Republic is determined by the Panamanian immigration authorities at the time of the said alien's entry.

My Government wishes to state for the record that this agreement relative to tourist or transit visas in no way affects provisions which are in force or which may be adopted in the future regarding *tourist cards*, and that it has no bearing on official, diplomatic or special visas.

After the present agreement has become effective through its definitive acceptance by Your Excellency's Government, it shall amend and supersede completely any other existing agreement or agreements between our two countries concerning tourist or transit visas for citizens of the United States and of the Republic of Panamá, on a reciprocal basis.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

IGNACIO MOLINO JR.
Minister of Foreign Affairs

His Excellency
MONNETT B. DAVIS,
*Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the United States.
Panamá.*

The American Ambassador to the Minister of Foreign Affairs

No. 84

PANAMÁ, November 5, 1948

EXCELLENCY:

I have the honor to refer to Your Excellency's note No. DP 2010 of October 27, 1948, wherein the Government of Panama accepts the proposal made by my Government as indicated in my Note No. 38 dated August 14, 1948 for the reciprocal extension of the validity of visitors' visas issued to citizens of Panama and the United States. I am pleased to note that, for the purpose of achieving full reciprocity, Your Excellency's acceptance will include the issuance of transit visas to United States citizens to enable them to enter the Republic of Panama for business reasons.

I wish to inform Your Excellency that Note No. DP-2010 under reference has been forwarded to the Department of State in order that appropriate instructions may be issued to American Consular and Diplomatic establish-

ments for the purpose of issuing visitors' visas for business and pleasure under the new agreement on January 1, 1949.

Please accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

MONNETT B. DAVIS

His Excellency

Licenciado IGNACIO MOLINO Jr.,
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Panamá.